and 4th May 1916 respectively, decided that the minutes and other proceedings should be recorded in English only. The members, who were not acquainted with the English language, were much discouraged by the above decision. They did not know in detail the proceedings of the Committee. It was desirable that the discussions in the Committee should also take place in Malayalam. According to section 25 of the Municipal Bill, the public had access to the meetings of the Committee. Unless the minutes and proceedings of the Committee were recorded in the Vernacular language also, the benefit of proviso 4 to the above section would not be enjoyed by the people. For the reasons stated above, the Member prayed that the minutes of the T. I. C., be ordered to be recorded in Malayalam also.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

101. Appointment of non-official Presidents for Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. A. Viramani Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara) said that, of the 19 Town Improvement Committees in the State, 18 were presided over by Government officials. When the permanent President went on leave, his successor in office generally took that place. Being a new man he was not able to understand the situation thoroughly and consequently the work of the Committee suffered. The official Presidents were not able to spare much time for the work connected with the Committee. Oftentimes they found it difficult even to attend the meetings of the Committee owing to heavy pressure of work in other directions. On the other hand, a non-official President would be able to devote a good portion of his time in going about the town and ascertaining its requirements. The desirability of appointing non-official Presidents had been urged upon the attention of the Government from the eleventh session of the Assembly. The Government themselves admitted that the working of the Alleppey Committee under its non-official President was very satisfactory. The proposal would not entail any additional expenditure to the Government. It would, moreover, bring in greater advantages to the people. The Member, therefore, suggested that the Presidents of all the Town Improvement Committees be elected from non-official Members of the Committees and that, when the President was absent or went on leave, another non-official Member be asked to attend to the duties of the President.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

102. Desirability of granting permission to the Town Improvement Committee, Alleppey, to levy a small toll on all vessels entering the water-ways within the limits of the Town.

Mr. N. T. Isaac (Member, T. I. C., Alleppey) said that Alleppey, being a commercial centre, attracted many people to it from outside. The town of Alleppey might be deemed the central town of Travancore. The steam boats from Quilon, Kottayam, Changanacherry, Chengannur and other places stopped at Alleppey. Those who wanted to go to Trivandrum, Cochin, Ernakulam, Madras and other places also halted at Alleppey for a day or two on their way. They availed themselves of the facilities afforded by the town for short halts. It was, therefore, equitable to realise a small amount from such persons in the shape of a toll. The Government were spending enormous sums for building bridges, improving canals, etc., within the town. There were several other matters also to be attended to with a view to improve the sanitation of the town and the Government might not be in a position to undertake all such works. Under the circumstances, the Member prayed that the Committee be empowered to levy a small fee from all persons who touched Alleppey on their way to other places. He understood that the Madras Government had either sanctioned or had under contemplation the recovery of a fee from all railway passengers, for the benefit of the Municipality.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

103. Condition of the town of Kottayam.

Mr. K. M. Mathula Mappila (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) said that the town of Kottayam was fast rising in importance and that the Government had not done anything in recent years for the town, except perhaps the establishment of a

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District Court. The Member referred to the following matters and prayed that the grievances of the people might be redressed.

Firstly, the Member objected to the location of the fish market in close proximity to the public privy in the Thirunakkara market. The privy was in the centre and the fish market was held on all the four sides of it. The Member prayed for the removal of the fish market from its present site to a less objectionable site.

The second complaint was that the number of wandering sick persons in the town was fast increasing day by day. The majority of such persons were coolies on the Estates at Peermade and other places, who fell sick on the Estates and subsequently managed to get away from there and reach Kottayam with difficulty. Their condition was pitiable and they had none to look after them. The Member, therefore, suggested that an asylum be opened for the benefit of such persons or that special arrangements might be made to get them treated in the Hospital.

The third point mentioned by the Member was the necessity of a Town Hall for the place. The absence of a Town Hall was badly felt by the citizens on special occasions such as the visit of His Highness the Maha Raja, Dewan, etc. The Member did not suggest that the Government should build such a hall for them. The people were ready to put up a building, but the site should be granted by the Government. He suggested that the required land might be found from the available areas of Government lands attached to the Vernacular School, the District Hospital or the District Court, at Kottayam. The local officers had also to be asked to co-operate with the people in building such a hall.

The Member next referred to the hardships experienced by the people of Kottayam in connection with the working of the Land Conservancy Regulation, IV of 1091. The authorities had begun to demolish costly and substantial walls and buildings adjoining the roadside on the strength of reports from irresponsible subordinates that such walls and buildings were erected on *poramboke* lands. The measurements taken by surveyors were unreliable. In certain cases, the area said to have been encroached upon was very small. There were several discrepancies and defects in the measurements recorded by the Revenue subordinates. In some instances, the fine realised for the so-called encroachments on *porambokes* had to be refunded to the alleged trespasser with interest in obedience to the orders of civil courts of competent jurisdiction. The Regulation was being used by the subordinates as a weapon to harass persons who did not happen to stand in favour with them. As the difficulties experienced by the people on account of the unsatisfactory working of the Regulation were real, the Member prayed that speedy action might be taken by the Government to redress their grievances.

Finally, the Member said that the Nagampadam Bridge had been reported to be closed to traffic for a period of one month and prayed that arrangements might be made to complete the repairs within one month instead of delaying the work and hereby putting the people to inconvenience.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

104. Desirability of transferring to the control of the Town Improvement Committee the village roads and tanks in the town after thorough repair.

Mr. A. Madhavan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherry) said that, wing to the action taken under the Land Conservancy Regulation for removing enroachments on *poramboke* lands, the roads were filled with heaps of earth and ravel in several places. During the rainy reason the water would stagnate on the oad causing inconvenience to traffic. If the accumulations of earth at different laces were levelled and spread over the road, the condition of the road would be etter and traffic would be rendered easier.

For the supply of water, the Member said that it was very necessary that the oovakkattu *chira* should be improved.

Dewan.—I have seen this *chira*. What is the portion to be improved ?

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